EDUCATION (IRELAND).

The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, to His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, for the Year ending 25 March 1843.

Pursuant to Act of Parliament, 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, s. 8.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS PHILIP, EARL DE GREY,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereunto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a general Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

The superintendence of the course of general instruction adopted at the numerous Schools under the control and care of the Commissioners, being chiefly of a character intended to fit the Students for their progress through the University, must necessarily deprive the annual Reports of the Board of much varied interest, or make them the vehicles of too minute detail.

With regard to the Royal Scholarships, founded by the Commissioners in the University, the Board has found it necessary, in conformity with the recommendation of the Fellows of the College, to require that, in addition to the usual course of examination defined by this Board, a much more extensive knowledge of History, as well as a better acquaintance with the Rules of Composition, should be enforced, as the qualification of the candidates for those Exhibitions. And we have the satisfaction to state to your Excellency that the Report of the Examiners, made to us, shows a manifest improvement in these important branches of education.

The School of Enniskillen, which is the most extensive of the Royal Foundations, and which continues to be the most numerously attended, claims our first notice; and we have to report to your Excellency that, in addition to the extensive buildings lately erected by us at Portora, we have found it necessary to call upon our architect for plans and estimates for further accommodation, which has been reported to us to have become absolutely necessary for the health and comfort of the pupils attending this School.

The Royal School of Dungannon also maintains its high position in public estimation; but in consequence of scarletina having appeared amongst the boarders, and which we regret to state in one instance proved fatal, we were obliged to permit an interruption to be made in the studies of the pupils, which however have since been resumed without injury to the School; the master having, during the temporary suspension of business, taken what seemed to be the most effectual means to prevent a recurrence of the disease.

Immediately adjoining the School-house at Dungannon we have been enabled, at the suggestion and recommendation of two members of the Board, who personally inspected the ground, and at the request of the Earl of Ranfurly, to effect with his Lordship an exchange of a small portion of ground, and thereby to enlarge the space allotted for the recreation of the pupils; a circumstance which we consider of great importance, situated as Dungannon School is, in a populous town.

At the other Royal Schools, nothing calling for special notice to your Excellency has taken place during the past year. We have, however, to notify to your Excellency that we have expended upon the different establishments such sums of money as appeared to us to be necessary, either for the protection of the buildings or the promotion of the health or recreation of the pupils.

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We have also made a small grant for the improvement of the School Libraries.

The changes which have taken place, under our directions, amongst the masters and assistants at the various Schools of public and private endowment, are scarcely of sufficient importance to require any special Report to your Excellency. We have, however, taken such measures with regard to these matters, as seemed to us most beneficial to the different Schools, and to the cause of Education generally.

We beg to submit to your Excellency the following list of Exhibitions granted by us in the past year:

Armagh Royal School.

Barnes, T. W., 50*l.* per annum for five years;
Wright, J. T., 50*l.* per annum for two years.

Dungannon Royal School.

Reilly, F., 50*l.* per annum for five years;
Hall, J., 30*l.* per annum for five years;
Collis, M., 30*l.* per annum for two years;
Hancock, W. N., 50*l.* for one year.

Enniskillen Royal School.

Doyne, R., 50*l.* per annum for five years;
Hearne, W. E., 30*l.* per annum for five years;
Dunbar, W., 30*l.* for one year.

Exhibitions whilst at School.

James Bleakley, 20*l.* per annum;
Samuel Quintin, 20*l.* per annum:

in addition to Exhibitions of a similar amount now enjoyed by W. Weir and Samuel Copeland.

Middleton Private Endowment.

Sullivan, E., a 30*l.* prize.

The estates attached to the Royal Schools, and the improvement of the tenantry, have claimed much of our attention; and the Reports of our local Agents show that a gradual improvement is in most cases observable amongst the tenantry.

The Raphoe Royal School Estate, which is situated in a very wild and mountainous part of the County Donegal, having, by the expiration of the lease made to the master, according to the former system of the Board, fallen into our possession, we advertised in the newspapers for an Agent; and we selected for that situation a gentleman who we trust will be enabled, after some time, under the superintendence of the Board, to bring into a better and more thriving condition this long mismanaged and neglected district.

And we have further to state to your Excellency, that since our last Report, we have paid to the Teller of the Exchequer the sum of 77*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, being the thirteenth annual instalment on a sum of money advanced by Government for the repairs of Raphoe School-house.

On the Carysfort School Estate, which lies in a mountainous part of the County of Wicklow, we have granted a lease of a small portion of ground to the rector of the parish; who proposes to erect thereon a Chapel of Ease for the benefit of his parishioners, living on parts of the estate too remote from the parish church.

The master of the Endowed School of Clonmel (which is one of private foundation) having resigned his office, the patrons appointed as his successor a gentleman of distinguished literary attainments. And the Board, acting in conformity with the directions of its legal advisers, selected a local Agent for the management of the estate which forms the endowment of this School; and also procured from an eminent surveyor, a survey and valuation thereof; and have taken such other steps with regard to this estate, and the tenantry generally, as seemed to them most advisable.

At Ballyroan Endowed School, also one of private foundation, we have (instead of rooting a dilapidated house in the village) completed, and are in the occupation of

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of a small house built by us on the School-ground, and adjacent to the School-house, for the accommodation of the second master.

And from the proceeds of the estate we have, conformably with the directions of the founder, paid to the King's Hospital at Oxmantown, its proportion of the rents.

At Eyrecourt School we have, in furtherance of our former resolution, and at the recommendation of the patrons of the School, determined to make a small additional outlay for the erection of some offices to be attached to the School-house.

In conclusion, we beg to state to your Excellency that the annual Returns furnished to us by the masters of the various Schools of Royal and of private endowment, as well as of the Diocesan Schools, exhibit a more extensive course in every branch of education than it had been customary formerly to require.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) JOHN G. ARMAGH. (L. S.)
R^D DUBLIN. (L. S.)
CHARLES KILDARE. (L. S.)
EDWARD MEATH. (L. S.)
FRANC. SADLEIR. (L. S.)
JAMES WILSON. (L. S.)
JOHN RADCLIFF. (L. S.)
C. R. ELRINGTON. (L. S.)
ROBERT SHAW. (L. S.)
L. PERRIN. (L. S.)

8, Clare-street.

Wm Cotter Kyle, LL.D.,
Secretary.

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